

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07

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O R 101635Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8390

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4022

LONDON ALSO FOR AMB BOWDLER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT SF WA

SUBJ: NAMIBIAN DEVELOPMENTS

REF: PRETORIA 3771

1. SUMMARY: THE PRESS HAS REPORTED RECENT ALLEGED TURNHALLE CRITICISM OF SA TROOPS WITHDRAWAL PROPOSALS AND THE POSSIBLE DESIGNATION OF AHTISSARI AS UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IN NAMIBIA. FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED WITH THE TURNHALLE THE POSSIBILITY OF WITHDRAWING ONE OR TWO SOUTH AFRICAN BATTALIONS FROM NAMIBIA. MEANWHILE, THERE ARE CONFLICTING SIGNALS ABOUT SAG INTENTIONS REGARDING THE ADMINISTRATOR-
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GENERAL, THOUGH ONE INDICATION IS THAT FORMAL INSTALLATION MAY BE PLANNED FOR SEPTEMBER 30 OR SHORTLY THEREAFTER.
END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO A RAND DAILY MAIL AUGUST 10 REPORT FROM WINDHOEK, IN A MEETING BETWEEN FONMIN BOTHA AND THE TURNHALLE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE ON MAONDAY, AUGUST 8,

IT WAS DECIDED THAT "THERE WOULD BE NO WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS PRIOR TO THE ELECTION AND THAT MR. AHTISAARI WAS UNSUITABLE (AS UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE) BECAUSE OF HIS ALLEGED CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH SWAPO AND THE CHURCHES."

3. THE GERMAN CONSUL IN WINDHOEK, UWE HANSEN, TOLD US THAT THE ABOVE NEWS REPORT HAD OVERSTATED THE SITUATION. NO DECISIONS WERE MADE AT THE AUGUST 8 TURNHALLE MEETING, HE SAID, ALTHOUGH THE DELEGATES DID EXPRESS THEIR NEGATIVE OPINIONS ON THE TROOP WITHDRAWAL AND UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE ISSUES. A TURNHALLE OFFICIAL TOLD HANSEN THAT FONMIN BOTHA HAD DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF WITHDRAWING ONE OR TWO SOUTH AFRICAN BATTALIONS PROVIDING SWAPO MET "CERTAIN CONDITIONS." THE TURNHALLE OFFICIAL ALSO SAID THAT WHILE THEY WERE NOT HAPPY WITH THE PROSPECT OF AHTISAARI'S BEING NAMED THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, "IF FORCED UPON US, WHAT CAN WE DO?"

4. THERE ARE CONFLICTING SIGNALS ABOUT SAG INTENTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL. THE TURNHALLE SOURCE TOLD HANSEN THAT AUGUST 22 WOULD BE THE DATE OF THE "APPOINTMENT" OF THE ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL. (WE THINK THIS IS LIKELY A MISUNDERSTANDING OF WHAT BOTHA PRESUMABLY TOLD THE TURNHALLE ABOUT THE INTENTION TO GAZETTE THE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATOR-CONFIDENTIAL

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GENERAL ON AUGUST 22.) IT APPEARS THAT ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL-DESIGNATE STEYN MAY STILL BE PLANNING TO PROCEED SHORTLY TO NAMIBIA WHETHER OR NOT HE IS ACTUALLY IN OFFICE. HANSEN SAID THAT THE LOCAL RADIO HAD ANNOUNCED THAT STEYN WOULD OPEN THE SWA AGRICULTURAL SHOW IN WINDHOEK ON AUGUST 30. A WINDHOEK JOURNALIST TOLD US HE UNDERSTOOD STEYN WOULD ARRIVE ON AUGUST 22, THOUGH HE MIGHT NOT ASSUME ANY OFFICIAL DUTIES AT THAT TIME. MEANWHILE, IN PRETORIA, PRIME MINISTER VORSTER INFORMED THE PRESS ON AUGUST 9 THAT THE ADMINISTRATOR FOR SOUTH WEST AFRICA, P. J. VAN DER WALT, WILL VACATE HIS POST ON SEPTEMBER 30, "WITH A VIEW TO THE NEW DISPENSATION WHICH IS NOW PLANNED FOR THE TERRITORY." THE POSITION WILL NOT BE FILLED AGAIN, VORSTER SAID.

5. COMMENT: THERE IS NO CLEAR INDICATION WHETHER THE SAG WILL GO AHEAD WITH THE GAZETTING OF THE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL ON AUGUST 22 AS VORSTER TOLD THE FIVE WAS HIS INTENTION (REFTEL). THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF VAN DER WALT'S RESIGNATION AS SWA ADMINISTRATOR EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 30 DOES SUGGEST, HOWEVER, THAT THE SOUTH AFRICANS MAY PLAN TO HAVE COMPLETED BY THEN THE

VARIOUS STEPS PREPARATORY TO OFFICIAL INSTALLATION OF
ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL STEYN ON OR SHORTLY AFTER THAT
DATE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PRETOR04022
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770288-0027
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770876/aaaacmqp.tel
Line Count: 120
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 30be305d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PRETORIA 3771
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1645985
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIAN DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PINT, PDEV, SF, WA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/30be305d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009